

IN YOUR SERVICE . . .



ROBERT GOLD was one of the original members of the Welland County Mental Health Association, serving as its president before he retired from the board. He is active in the Stamford Kiwanis Club, giving his all to aid in its work. He believes a man "should only belong to one service club." He belongs to a fraternity and works tirelessly for the Jewish community. In 1976 he participated in a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. He is a well known furrier, employed at Robert's Quality on Queen Street —



Elizabeth Pitts Barron has been an active and invaluable member of St. John Ambulance for more than 50 years, serving in Canada and Overseas during the war with the combined Red Cross-St. John Auxiliary. During the second world war Mrs. Barron was on special duty in various hospitals including Old London Hospital and the St. Dunston headquarters for the blind. In 1970 she retired as executive director of the Niagara Falls YWCA. She is also active with Zonta Club International and is a past president of the Niagara Falls Camera Club.

GIRLS' CLUB DIRECTOR RETURNS



MISS ELIZABETH PITT,
Director, Eaton Girls' Club

Miss Elizabeth Pitt, director of Eaton Girls' Club, a Captain in the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, just returned from overseas, where she was very active as a V.A.D. in First Aid work. Arriving when the robot blitz was at it's height, she experienced the bombing at first hand, saw the havoc wrought, gave first aid to victims and witnessed the valiant way Londoners re-acted to the misery caused by the bombing. She speaks feelingly of that wonderful, devoted service being given by "just ordinary people".

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Miss E. Pitt, Back from London, Speaks on Experiences

Miss Elizabeth Pitt, of Eaton Girls' Club staff, who returned recently after four months in England, gave the Speakers' Club some of her impressions and experiences at their October 6th meeting.

Divisional Superintendent of the Eaton Girls' Club St. John Ambulance Brigade, Nursing Division, Miss Pitt went overseas for active service survey work. Arriving when the robot blitz was on, she experienced the bombing at first hand, saw the havoc wrought, gave first aid to victims and witnessed the valiant way Londoners re-acted to the misery caused by the bombing. She worked in convalescent hospitals, first-aid posts and medical posts. From a vivid description of her experiences, here are a few highlights:



—On the landing boat which took passengers from the ship to shore, the first man she spoke to proved to be an Eatonian, now a Signaller in the Navy.

—In the London Station, women nonchalantly heaved luggage about, like rugged navvies.

—By just an hour, she missed the bombing of a hospital in which she worked, arriving in time to help with the evacuation and cleaning up.

—She worked with the Civil Defence at First Aid stations, where casualties and bomb victims are received. At a Medical Aid station in the Tubes, Miss Pitt was on duty alone. In her work she gave first aid for everything from pneumonia and temporary dressings to bomb-shocked mothers of new born babies.

—She described scenes in tubes where for four years hundreds of Londoners have slept—in bunks, on platforms where underground trains constantly come and go, or on the stairs. Some with mattresses, some just with pieces of paper between them and cement floor.

—At one war work centre, a joint war organization of Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Brigade, where parcels for prisoners of war are packed, Miss Pitt noticed amongst others, two Oriental women working. They proved to be the Queen of Siam and her Lady in Waiting.

—Prices of luxuries, she found, were high, such as one peach \$1.50, one melon \$2.50. But utility items remained at moderate prices.

—Miss Pitt says you rarely see women in slacks . . . the majority wear service clothes . . . and others are smartly dressed regardless of rationing.

—Miss Pitt carried away unforgettable memories of the courage and endurance of British women.

—Speaking of our London Buying Office, she expressed appreciation of the kindly co-operation she had met with from those in charge.

Women's Mind, Time And Dollars Spent On Welland Improvement

Women of Welland, in 1968 have travelled farther afield, worked on more civic and cultural activities, and, in general, taken a more active interest in the happenings that influence their lives.

Discussions in many groups have centered on the controversial Commission to study the status of women. Church groups have donated monies, not only to local charities, but to international relief groups that aid in Biafra and other countries in desperate need.

Welland women, as they move out of the "small town" sphere are also becoming more fashion conscious, and more desirous of knowing the present trends. The recent establishment of a boutique proves this desire. In the past year Welland has kept pace with the feminine look, and, for the youth, the leather and "Bonnie and Clyde" styles, that have predominated in international fashion coutures.

Individuals have also stepped into the news. The most controversial of these women was Mrs. Mary Sonnenberg, who was charged in September with pointing a firearm at the Seaway authorities building a drainage ditch through her expropriated property. Mrs. Sonnenberg had refused to leave her home in Welland Junction, even when her hydro and water were cut off.

Of the four women to run for municipal and school board posts in the November election, the only one to receive office was Mrs. H. Lottridge who was acclaimed to the Welland County Separate School Board. Others who were brave enough to run the race for election were: in the aldermanic race; Mrs. Helen Monaco, and Mrs. G. Gibbons, both public spirited housewives, both failing in their second attempt; and Mrs. Helen Durley, a long-time member of area school boards, who had contested for a public school board seat.

Mrs. Victor Beachin of Welland was re-elected president of the Women's Institutes extending throughout the peninsula to the Hamilton area.

The drive to retain the present canal as a park, and not an extension of Highway 406, was led by Miss Dorothy Porter, elected chairman of the Welland Planning Board.

Only two women in Welland were honored with a Centennial medal: Mrs. Donna Burkinshaw, a resident since 1925, served overseas as a nurse, and became the first female veteran to join the local legion; and Sister M. Veronica, of Notre Dame College School for valuable service in education.

Welland also suffered a major loss, last year, when Miss Anna Mary Oram, the first area public health nurse, and the first woman councillor, died in Our Lady of Mercy Hospital, in Toronto, Jan. 6. Many remember her kindness.

Another loss, materialized in the resignation of Miss Elizabeth Pitt, executive director of the YM-YWCA for the past four years. Miss Pitt, who was one of the major workers for the new building, is presently at the Niagara Falls "Y".

The youngest woman to get headlines in the past year was nine-year-old Christine Wisheart, who won the top juvenile baton twirling championship in Canada, held at the Canadian National Exhibition.

High school sororities, public schools, individual students as well as various women's groups, displayed unprecedented generosity to various funds in the city. Several of the outstanding contributions were: \$500 raised for the "Y" by the pupils of General Vanier School; the 86-hour dribbling marathon sponsored by the Sigma Iota Rho fraternity that realized over \$300 for the Retarded Children's Association. Fonthill Hospital Auxiliary donated \$1,000 to furnish a psychiatric ward in the Centennial Wing of the Welland County Hospital. Allie Spencer IODE contributed \$1,000 to provide a library in the women's residence at Brock University.

A major advancement in the past year was the establishment of the Big Sisters Association to provide clothing, recreation, and lay counselling for young girls. Forty women met at the "Y" in February, secured permission from council, and began their work under the leadership of Mrs. Margaret Butters, chairman.

Welland had a crowning year in the line of beauty, with Nancy Peskett leading the list when she was chosen as Rose Queen. Dianne Beguin won the contest for the title of French Canadian Queen, and 18-year-old Carolyn Birmingham became Niagara Colleges' first queen.

Women also led the way in bridging the "generation gap" by sponsoring, through home and school and related associations meetings with students to discuss their part in the modern world and to iron-out misunderstandings.

Now, at the beginning of 1969, the women of Welland, in groups and as individuals are laying many plans and resolutions. The promise of further opportunity to advance their education is materializing in the night classes held at Niagara College. The continued generosity of associations will better the lot of many residents. The need for more women to be leaders in governments, from the municipal to the federal level, may also touch Welland in the future.



MRS. E. LOTTRIDGE



MISS ELIZABETH PITT



MISS DOROTHY PORTER

Globe Mail June 29/98

Lives Lived

ELIZABETH ADELAIDE PITT BARRON

Pioneer in the field of women's physical education. Born Nov. 22, 1904, in Toronto; died May 31, in Niagara Falls, of complications from a fall, aged 93.

ON first meeting, Bess Pitt Barron, aged 90, climbed onto her living-room chair and proceeded to describe the difference between Danish and Swedish gymnastics. She gently swayed her arms and explained that this "new" Danish technique was designed to enhance fitness for women "without bulging muscle effect."

Surrounded by a gallery of family photographs, Bess also explained that she entered her 45-year career in physical education through the influence of her famous cousin, R. Tait McKenzie (1867-1938) — internationally recognized scholar, doctor, physical educator and sculptor, and acclaimed as Canada's physical educator of the century.

Bess's early childhood was spent between Toronto and Collingwood, as her father, Charles Pitt, managed a small lumber mill on Collins Inlet on the north shore of Georgian Bay. In one of her earliest memories, she recalled her brother, Bert, singing *Jesus Loves Me* to her from the bottom of the stairs of her grandmother's home while she lay in her room at the age of 4, stricken with scarlet fever. Despite a low birth weight, two cases of scarlet fever before turning 5, and a severe car accident at 12, Bess Pitt's adult career would take her into the realm of the physical. In 1925, she graduated from the Margaret Eaton School of Literature and Expression — one of the first schools of higher education in Canada that prepared young women to either enter the field of expressive, dramatic and literary art or the field of physical education.

Bess opted to choose the physical training course of study. Typical of class and gender expectations of the era, she was expected to seek the highest good for the nation by entering the health and hygiene field of service.

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After graduation, Bess taught women's physical education at Bryn Mawr College in Philadelphia and travelled to Ollerup Gymnastic College in Denmark, becoming the first Canadian to graduate from this summer training course in Danish gymnastics. When her career was interrupted by her father's illness, she returned to Toronto. She taught at Havergeral College and then accepted a position as director of the Eaton Girls' Club — a position she ultimately held for 29 years. In 1944, she served overseas as a member of the Eaton Nursing Division of the St. John Ambulance. Throughout this period, Bess served as a director and a counsellor for a number of girls' camps in the province — notably, the Eaton girls' camp at Shadow Lake, north of Toronto. In 1951, she became the executive director of the YWCA in Oshawa, but shortly thereafter returned to Toronto to care for her aging mother. Toward the end of her career, well into her 60s, she served as the executive director for the YM/YWCA of Welland and the YWCA of Niagara Falls.

Bess balanced decisions of life and love, career and home with difficulty. The winding tracks of her life reflected the tension between domestic responsibility and professional ambition. "I didn't want to get married," she once said. "I was too busy; but what was a single



Bess Pitt Barron in 1944.

girl to do?" She chose to defer marriage and follow a career that would at least offer room and board and the possibility of female friendship and travel. In a pattern still typical for many women today, she functioned as the primary care giver for her family — interrupting her career when needed — and, in addition to caring for her parents, served for a time as a female companion to Ethel O'Neil McKenzie (Tait's wife) and Flora McCrea Eaton (wife of John Craig Eaton, son of Timothy). These choices led her into a lifelong network of female friends and a rich legacy of correspondences with countless campers. Content to defer marriage until the age of 66 to Robert Barron of Niagara Falls — one year after her retirement — Bess finally relented to what she described as "the tender trap" in 1971.

Upon retirement, Bess composed her memoir, entitled, *A Strange Chronicle*. Although she eschewed the title, "feminist," Bess acknowledged that she "was never afraid to be first." She wanted young women to come into a sense of their own physical competence and career possibility.

In 1979, she submitted her memoir to three Canadian publishers; all three rejected the work on the grounds that it was "not sufficiently scholarly." Today, the memoir remains unpublished — yet another silent testimony to the challenges involved in reclaiming the visibility of women's history and the legitimacy of their "lives lived."

Anna H. Lathrop

Anna H. Lathrop is an assistant professor in the Department of Physical Education at Brock University, St. Catharines.



MRS. HILTZ, MRS. MANN WITH GOLD KEY

"Y" President Presents Key For Col. "Sam"

Col. R. S. McLaughlin's daughter, Mrs. Churchill Mann, accepted a mounted gold key in his honor at the official opening Tuesday of the \$230,000 addition to Adelaide House.

Col. McLaughlin, who was unable to attend the ceremony because of illness (influenza), paid the entire cost of erecting the gymnasium and club room addition to the House, operated by the Young Women's Christian Association.

Following the official opening Mrs. Mann said the Colonel is coming along as rapidly as can be expected for a man of his age. She said he became ill last week.

A host of dignitaries were on hand for the opening ceremony. Officiating were Mrs. A. G. Hiltz, president of the district YWCA; Mrs. Mann; Mayor Lyman Gifford; Mrs. A. W. Ruby, president of the YWCA of Canada; Mrs. Agnes

Roy, national executive director of the YWCA; contractor and architect Harry Gay and Peter Allward, respectively; Monsignor Paul Dwyer; and Rev. John Porter, president of the Oshawa Ministerial Association.

It was 21 years ago next December that Col. McLaughlin's initial investment came to life with the completion of the Adelaide House. He paid the cost of that, too.

Mrs. Hiltz told a gathering of about 100 people it was early last year Col. McLaughlin offered to build the addition to ease a chronic problem of space shortage at the House.

Construction started later in the year and the YWCA began using the addition as early as February this year — putting an end to limitations that plagued House activities. Some of the things that got more running room with the new gymnasium will be badminton, women's keep-fit classes, girls' basketball and volleyball, men's gymnastics, plus a host of other gym activities. The club room will among other things, take care of bridge classes, sewing, dress-making and millinery lessons.

Previously all this and more was squeezed into a craft shop (connected to the new addition) and two rooms in the downstairs of the Adelaide House.

Mrs. Mary Johnson, program director, gained a new office out of the addition along with program assistant Miss Carol Young.

Mayor Gifford said he hoped Col. McLaughlin will regain his health and "rejoin us later" and:

"I'm sure that the donor of this beautiful building will be happy as long as he knows it is being put to good use.

"It is a home away from home for girls who are passing through this city. They are doing a good job of it," the mayor said.

On accepting the gold key for her father, Mrs. Mann said:

"It gives me great pleasure to accept this key on behalf of my father and I'm sure he is getting great pleasure out of the work the YWCA is doing here."



YWCA OFFICIALS met at Adelaide House yesterday for the official opening of a \$230,000 addition. Shown left to right, are:

Miss Agnes Ray, national executive director of the YWCA; Miss Elizabeth Pitt, first executive director of the Y here and now holding

the same position for the YM and YWCA in Welland, Ont.; Miss Grace Wilson, first vice-president of the

Oshawa YWCA, and Mrs. A. W. Ruby, president of the YWCA of Canada.

—Oshawa Times Photo

The Oshawa Times

OSHAWA, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1966

*Are you going to Australia?
A friend of mine, Mabel Van Camp, is*

Lundy's Lane Church setting for Barron-Pitt nuptials

Lundy's Lane United Church was the setting Wednesday, for the marriage of Miss Elizabeth Pitt, Mouland Ave., to Robert A. Barron, Niagara River Parkway.

The Rev. Lawrence E. Fetter officiated at the afternoon ceremony.

Given in marriage by her brother, C. B. Pitt of Toronto, the bride wore a white street-length dress in Irish linen trimmed with lace, complemented by a short veil caught to a mohair hat. The bride carried a small bouquet of white and yellow orchids.

Mrs. C. B. Pitt of Toronto, sister-in-law of the bride, was the matron of honor, wearing a

street-length dress in white, patterned in a soft pink shade.

Best man was John Barron, son of the groom, with John S. MacKenzie, Atlanta, Ga., and Bertram Hulbig of Toronto, as ushers.

Following the reception held in the Rose Spencer Room of the church, the couple left on a wedding trip to Vermont.

Upon their return, Mr. and Mrs. Barron will reside on the Niagara River Parkway.

O u t-o f-t o w n guests were present from Ottawa, Toronto, Peterborough, Woodstock, Chatham, Bracebridge, Buffalo, N. Y., Burlington, Niagara Falls, N. Y., Welland, Barrie, St. Catharines, Collingwood, Meaford and Atlanta, Ga.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE HONORS C. L. BURTON

C. L. Burton, chairman of the board of Simpson's Ltd., will be made a Knight of Grace in the St. John Ambulance association at Government House in Ottawa Monday.

Mr. Burton will be presented with the award, the highest St. John recognition, by the governor-general. He is the only Canadian to win the Knight of Grace award this year; 65 lesser presentations will be made at the same time.

"Mr. Burton has been very interested in St. John for many years," said W. J. Bennett, chief commissioner in Canada for the association. "He has done much to help us further our ends."

To be named officer brothers are: Dr. John Patrick McGuigan, Lieut.-Col. Ian MacIntosh Roe Sinclair, Hon. Leopold Macaulay, Dr. Charles Davidson Gossage and Jack Kent Cooke.

Miss Elizabeth Adelaide Pitt of Toronto will be named to the Serving Sisters.

ELECTIONS ACT

Miss Elizabeth Pitt Resigns As Executive Director of YWCA

It was with expressed regret that the board of directors of the Oshawa YWCA accepted the resignation of Miss Elizabeth Pitt, executive director at the monthly board meeting held last night. Miss Pitt came to the YWCA seven years ago as its first executive director and has made herself known to hundreds of Oshawa residents, men, women and children.

Her letter to the board follows:

"It is with the utmost regret that I submit my resignation as Executive Director of the Oshawa Young Women's Christian Association to the Chairman of the Personnel Committee and members of the Board of Directors, to take effect as of September 16, 1952, which will facilitate replacement.

"I have accepted a position with The T. Eaton Company, Limited, with whom I was associated for some years.

"It has been my privilege for the past seven years to know and highly regard your Honorary Presidents, Mrs. R. S. McLaughlin, Mrs. T. K. Creighton and the Presidents of your Board. This regard has extended to the Directors, Committees and my Associate Staff.

"It is a consolation to know that I would be leaving you in most capable hands — Miss Richer, Miss Power, Miss Andrews, Hewson with her Cafeteria Staff and Mr. Frank Chumbley, all of whom have contributed so much to carry out your administration so admirably.

"Financially, you are on a sound foundation, built up through your careful guidance, which I know will continue in giving good service to the community.

"I would like to express my sincere appreciation not only to our own Volunteers and Staff, but also to the Community Chest, and others who have contributed so generously to the YWCA through their co-operation and material assistance during my term of office.

"It is with deepest regret that I have made my decision, as I



MISS ELIZABETH PITT

have grown to have a great regard for the City of Oshawa, through my work with your outstanding organization.

"Again my sincere personal thanks to you, Mrs. McCallum, for your many kindnesses and understanding, in my pleasant work with you, your Board, Staff and members of the Association.

"I leave my sincere Good Wishes for continued success and progress in all the year to come..

"Yours very sincerely,

ELIZABETH PITT."

Individual members of the board expressed their regrets at Miss Pitt's decision, but felt that the inducements offered were more than they could equal.

Application will be made to the Toronto office for a replacement and meanwhile the position will be open. Miss Pitt leaves for Toronto September 16. Written applications should be addressed to the president of the board, Mrs. F. N. McCallum.



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